

Application No. 09/409,659
Amendment dated October 13, 2003
Reply to Office Action of July 7, 2003

Amendments to Specification:

B1
In the title, please replace "IMAGING DEVICE" with SEQUENTIAL SCAN IMAGING
DEVICE--.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 14, line 24 with the following amended paragraph:

B2
A second digital video processor (DVP) [28] 31 which inputs sequential scan imaging data read out from the third memory 28 is provided in the processor section 12, which is connected after the scope main unit 11. In a DVP [28] 31, outline enhancement processing, zoom (enlargement/reduction) processing, image position control, mirror image processing, and the like, is carried out. After this DVP [28] 31, there are connected scan converting means 32 and a D/A converted 33 for generating sequential scan image data for a personal computer interface, etc., or interlace scan image data for TV systems. Thereby, sequential scan imaging data is converted by scan converting means 32 to data for a PC or TV, and this data is then converted to an analogue image signal by D/A converter 33 and output.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 16, line 3 with the following amended paragraph:

B3 Cont
The iris 37, on the other hand, is connected to a drive circuit 40 and an iris control circuit 41, and by driving the iris 37 by means of this drive circuit and iris control circuit 41 on the basis of a brightness signal obtained from the first digital video processor (not illustrated) (in Fig. 1, it is described as an output from the [memory] DVP 27), it is possible to adjust the amount of light to which the imaging element 15 is exposed. Next, the action of the electronic endoscope device

B3
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1 having the foregoing composition is described with reference to Fig. 4.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 22, line 22 with the following amended paragraph:

B4

The scope main unit 51 is different to the scope main unit 11 in the aforementioned device 1 in that it does not comprise a mixing circuit and it is provided with DVP 67 in place of DVP 27. In the present example, the imaging signal output from the imaging element 55 is stored temporarily, in a state where it is divided into an imaging signal for the odd-numbered lines and an imaging signal for the even-numbered lines, in memories 23, 24 corresponding respectively to the same. The imaging data for the odd-numbered lines and the imaging data for the even-numbered lines are then read out successively on the basis of the control implemented by the memory control circuit 26, and the imaging data thus read out is subjected to prescribed signal processing by DVP 67 and then stored in the third memory 28, whereupon it is read out in a prescribed sequence, thereby generating sequential scan imaging data (details described hereinafter). In other words, in the present example, sequential scanning means 69 is constituted by the first memory 23, second memory 24, memory control circuit 26 and DVP [66]67.

Please replace the Abstract with the following paragraph:

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In an electronic endoscope using an imaging element, odd-numbered field data is obtained by mixing imaging data for the even-numbered lines and their subsequent odd-numbered lines, and even-numbered field data is obtained by mixing imaging data for the odd-

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numbered lines and their subsequent even-numbered lines. The field data undergoes color signal processing in a DVP and is then stored temporarily in a third memory. This data is converted to sequential scan imaging data by reading out the data repeatedly in alternate sequence while switching the number of the binning line. A second DVP implements outline enhancement processing, zoom processing using this sequential scan imaging data.

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Amendments to the Drawings:

The Examiner indicated that FIGS. 1 and 5 include reference sign 21 that is not mentioned in the description and that FIG. 1 includes reference signs A1/A2 that is not mentioned in the description. The attached sheets of drawings no longer include reference signs 21 and A1/A2. The attached sheets, that include FIGS. 1, 4 and 5, replace the original sheets including FIGS. 1, 4 and 5.